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EXAMINER

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**BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES**

Application Number: 10/798,620
Filing Date: March 10, 2004
Appellant(s): LANE, RICHARD DOIL

Kevin T. Cheatham
For Appellant

EXAMINER'S ANSWER

This is in response to the appeal brief filed 12 August 2011 appealing from the Office action mailed 14 March 2011.

(1) Real Party in Interest

The examiner has no comment on the statement, or lack of statement, identifying by name the real party in interest in the brief.

(2) Related Appeals and Interferences

The examiner is not aware of any related appeals, interferences, or judicial proceedings which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

(3) Status of Claims

The following is a list of claims that are rejected and pending in the application:

Claims pending in the application are 1-15,17,18,20-30,32,34-40,42-54,56,58-64,66- 81,84-86,88-94,96,98-102,105,106,108-112 and 115-133.

Claims rejected are 1-15,17,18,20-30,32,34-40,42-54,56,58-64,66-81,84-86,88-94,96,98-102,105,106,108-112 and 115-133.

(4) Status of Amendments After Final

The examiner has no comment on the appellant's statement of the status of amendments after final rejection contained in the brief.

(5) Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

The examiner has no comment on the summary of claimed subject matter contained in the brief.

(6) Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal

The examiner has no comment on the appellant's statement of the grounds of rejection to be reviewed on appeal. Every ground of rejection set forth in the Office action from which the appeal is taken (as modified by any advisory actions) is being maintained by the examiner except for the grounds of rejection (if any) listed under the subheading "WITHDRAWN REJECTIONS." New grounds of rejection (if any) are provided under the subheading "NEW GROUNDS OF REJECTION."

(7) Claims Appendix

The examiner has no comment on the copy of the appealed claims contained in the Appendix to the appellant's brief.

(8) Evidence Relied Upon

2001/0047517	Christopoulos et al.	11-2001
2002/0154691	Kost et al.	10-2002
6,789,110	Short et al.	9-2004
2004/0023622	Mantha et al.	2-2004
2004/0203851	Vetro et al.	10-2004

2002/0152317	Wang et al.	10-2002
6,920,179	Anand et al.	7-2005
6,018,369	Patterson	1-2000
5,731,847	Tsukagoshi	3-1998
6,343,098	Boyce	1-2002

(9) Grounds of Rejection

The following ground(s) of rejection are applicable to the appealed claims:

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claim 1-2, 5, 7-12, 14, 17, 20-23, 25-26, 29, 32, 35-36, 38, 42, 44-47, 49-50, 53, 56-60, 62, 66, 68-71, 73-74, 77, 79-81, 84-86, 91, 93-94, 96-97, 101-102, 105-106, 111-112, 115-118, 122 and 124-133 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Christopoulos et al. (US 2001/0047517 hereinafter Christopoulos) in view of Kost et al. (US 2002/0154691 hereinafter Kost), Short et al. (US 6,789,110 hereinafter Short) and Mantha et al. (US 2004/0023622 hereinafter Mantha).

Regarding claim 1, Christopoulos discloses “an apparatus, operable in a wireless communication system, comprising:

a customer manager to determine a user preference for selective re-encoding of a multimedia stream;” ([0035], [0036]-[0038], [0046], Figs. 2-3 and 5)

“an encode manager included within wireless service provider equipment of the wireless communication system for receiving the multimedia stream” ([0033], [0035]-[0036], Fig. 1 item 120 gateway with item 125 transcoder receives a multimedia stream from item 113 multimedia storage)

“an encoder system included within the wireless service provider equipment for selectively re-encoding the received stream using the selected one of the plurality of encoding parameter sets to output an encoded stream with principles set forth by the selected one of the plurality of encoding parameter sets” ([0007], [0035], [0037]-[0038], [0046], Figs. 1-3 items 350 and 360, item 125 the transcoder selects a scheme to re-encode the multimedia stream based upon various factors including user preferences).

But, while Christopoulos states selecting multiple different parameter sets to encode two different types of multimedia data being an encoding parameter set (*2nd encoding parameter set*) for encoding a video data type (Fig. 5, [0046] where video data is considered the 2nd data type) and an encoding parameter set (*3rd encoding parameter set*) for encoding an image data type (Fig. 4, [0039], where image data is considered the 3rd data type) where the user preferences determine which set to use (the hints associated with each data packet used to select an encoding set), Christopoulos does not explicitly state the use of a three encoding parameter sets for encoding three different data type or an encoding parameter set for encoding multiple types of the plurality of types of data.

However, Kost discloses an encoding set (*1st encoding parameter set*) to encode audio data ([0079]-[0080], [0084], Fig. 1, where audio data is considered the 1st data type) and an encoding set (*4th encoding parameter set*) to encode both video and audio data.

Further, while Christopoulos states that the user preference further specifies a demand to provide the multimedia stream at a lowest cost (where cost is assumed to be bandwidth) and selecting one of the plurality of encoding parameter sets that provides a high rate of compression and a lower quality of service to provide the lowest cost in accordance with the demand specified by the user preference (when the hint associated with the data packet indicating user preference indicates a high rate of compression and a lower quality), Christopoulos does not explicitly state the preference being with respect to a lower billing cost only with respect to a lower bandwidth cost.

However, Short discloses where a user selects a preference indicating a bandwidth cost, where the bandwidth cost is correlated to a billing cost, the lower the bandwidth cost the lower the billing cost (col. 13 line 58 - col. 14 line 2).

In addition, Christopoulos does not explicitly state there being a first and second user, the first user preferences resulting in a lower quality of service than a second user, where the second user preferences determine the second users quality of service.

However, Mantha discloses based providing voice and data to users (subscribers) determined by pricing schemes, where a second user may pay more for a higher quality of service relative to a first user ([0082]).

Therefore it would have been obvious at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Christopoulos for adaptive encoding in a wireless communication system that uses multiple encoding parameters sets for specific types of data selected based upon user preferences with the teachings of Kost that discloses an encoding set to encode both video audio data and an encoding set to encode for only audio data and further with the teachings of Short for associating a user preference of bandwidth cost with billing cost and further with the teachings of Mantha for providing different quality of service to different users based on a pricing schemes and allocation criteria. One would have been motivated to do so to provide the user the capability to place a higher priority on audio data over video data via user preferences for video teleconferencing where it would be desirable to have more accurate audio data than video data and to further provide a user the ability for adaptive billing based on bandwidth cost desired, along with providing the option for different quality of services to different users for the purpose of increasing revenue by accounting for users that may not desire to pay for a higher quality of service or desire a higher quality of service and concordantly for users that may desire to pay for a higher quality of service or require a higher quality of service.

Regarding claim 2, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose “the apparatus of claim 1, wherein the encoding scheme is selected from a group that includes one or more of a scheme based on a system bandwidth, a scheme based on a wireless receiver capability, a scheme based on a number of users requesting a specific

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multimedia stream at a designated QoS, a scheme based on a multimedia data type, a scheme based on a user preference and a scheme based on characteristics of a mobile station” ([0036]-[0038], [0046]-[0047], Fig. 3).

Regarding claim 5, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose “the apparatus of claim 2, further comprising an encoder for executing the selected one of the plurality of encoding parameter sets for each of the first and second users based on the encoding scheme” ([0014], Fig. 1 item 125).

Regarding claim 7, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose “the apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a bandwidth manager that dynamically determines an available bandwidth for a requested multimedia stream” ([0007], [0036], and [0046]).

Regarding claim 8, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose “the apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a decoder for receiving the multimedia stream and decoding the received stream to output a decoded stream, wherein the encoder system re-encodes the received stream by re-encoding the decoded stream using the selected one of the plurality of encoding parameter sets for each of the first and second users to output the encoded stream differently for each of the first and second users

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with principles set forth by the respective encoding parameter set” ([0036]-[0038], [0046], Figs. 3 and 5).

Regarding claim 9, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose “the apparatus of claim 1, wherein the encoder manager comprises a bandwidth manager for selecting the one of the plurality of the encoding parameter sets for each of the first and second users in accordance with the encoding scheme” ([0007], [0036], [0046]).

Regarding claim 10, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose “the apparatus of claim 1, wherein the encoder system comprises an encoder for executing the selected one of the encoding parameter sets for each of the first and second users” ([0014], Fig. 1 item 125).

Regarding claim 11, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose “the apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a transceiver for wirelessly transmitting re-encoded streams to a mobile stations for each of the first and second users” ([0003], [0007], [0035], Fig. 1 item 130, a transmitter and receiver at both ends for bi-directional wireless communications would be necessary).

Regarding claim 12, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose “the apparatus of claim 1, wherein the encoding system provides an output configurable for

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handheld devices that require a first frame rate and a first bandwidth” ([0002], [0036]-[0038], [0046]-[0047]).

Regarding claim 14, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose “the apparatus of claim 1,

wherein the received stream comprises a stream of a first resolution, and

wherein for the first user the encoding system re-encodes the received stream by re-encoding the stream of a first resolution to a stream of a second resolution, a first frame rate and a first bandwidth” ([0002], [0036]-[0038], [0046]-[0047], [0056], Fig. 3).

Regarding claim 17, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose “the apparatus of claim 1, wherein for each of the first and second users preferences the encode manager selects two or more of the plurality of encoding parameter sets in accordance with an encoding, scheme” (when two types of data are being streamed such as image and video or video and audio).

Regarding claim 20, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose “the apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a computer configured to receive the multimedia stream from a mobile station” ([0003], [0035]).

Regarding claim 21, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose “the apparatus of claim 20, wherein the mobile station is operable in the wireless communication system” ([0003], [0035]).

Regarding claim 22, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose “The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the multimedia stream is received using an over the air communication air interface” ([0007], [0035]).

Regarding claim 23, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose “the apparatus of claim 1, wherein the multimedia stream is received using an internet connection” ([0003], [0035]).

Regarding claim 25, Christopoulos discloses “a method for providing digital multimedia in a wireless communication system, comprising:

determining with a customer manager of the wireless communication system a user preference for selective re-encoding of a multimedia stream” ([0035], [0036]-[0038], [0046], Figs. 2-3 and 5)

“receiving the multimedia stream at an encode manager of the wireless communication system;” ([0033], [0035]-[0036], Fig. 1 item 120 gateway with item 125 transcoder receives a multimedia stream from item 113 multimedia storage)

“selecting at least one of a plurality of encoding parameter sets in accordance with an encoding scheme, wherein the encoding scheme includes a scheme based on a user preference, wherein the multimedia stream includes a plurality of different types of data,” ([0007], [0035], [0037]-[0038], [0046], Figs. 1-3 items 350 and 360, item 125 the transcoder selects a scheme to re-encode multimedia stream based upon various factors including user preferences)

selectively re-encoding, with an encoder system of the wireless communication system, the received stream using the selected one of the plurality of encoding parameter sets to output an encoded stream with principles set forth by the selected one of the plurality of encoding parameter sets" ([0007], [0037]-[0038], [0046], Fig. 1, Fig. 3 items 350 and 360, item 125 the transcoder selects a scheme to re-encode multimedia stream based upon various factors including available bandwidth).

But, while Christopoulos states selecting multiple different sets to encode two different types of multimedia data being image (Fig. 4, [0039]) and video (Fig. 5, [0046]) where the user preferences determine which set to use (the hints associated with each data packet used to select an encoding set), Christopoulos does not explicitly state the use of a third encoding parameter set for encoding multiple types of the plurality of types of data.

Further, while Christopoulos states the user preference further specifies a demand to provide the multimedia stream at a lowest cost (where cost is assumed to be bandwidth) and selecting one of the plurality of encoding parameter sets that provides a high rate of compression and a lower quality of service to provide the lowest cost in

accordance with the demand specified by the user preference (when the hint associated with the data packet indicating user preference indicates a high rate of compression and a lower quality), Christopoulos does not explicitly state the preference being with respect to a lower billing cost only with respect to a lower bandwidth cost.

In addition, Christopoulos does not explicitly state there being a first and second user, the first user preferences resulting in a lower quality of service than a second user, where the second user preferences determine the second users quality of service.

However, Mantha discloses based providing voice and data to users (subscribers) determined by pricing schemes, where a second user may pay more for a higher quality of service relative to a first user ([0082]).

Therefore it would have been obvious at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Christopoulos for adaptive encoding in a wireless communication system that uses multiple encoding parameters sets for specific types of data selected based upon user preferences with the teachings of Kost that discloses an encoding set to encode both video audio data and an encoding set to encode for only audio data and further with the teachings of Short for associating a user preference of bandwidth cost with billing cost and further with the teachings of Mantha for providing different quality of service to different users based on a pricing schemes and allocation criteria. One would have been motivated to do so to provide the user the capability to place a higher priority on audio data over video data via user preferences for video teleconferencing where it would be desirable to have more accurate audio data than video data and to further provide a user the ability for adaptive billing based on bandwidth cost desired, along

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with providing the option for different quality of services to different users for the purpose of increasing revenue by accounting for users that may not desire to pay for a higher quality of service or desire a higher quality of service and concordantly for users that may desire to pay for a higher quality of service or require a higher quality of service.

Regarding claim 26, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose “the method of claim 25, further comprising selecting the first encoding scheme from a group of encoding schemes that includes one or more of a scheme based on a system bandwidth, a scheme based on a wireless receiver capability, a scheme based on a number of users requesting a specific multimedia stream at a designated QoS, a scheme based on a multimedia data type, the scheme based on the user preference and a scheme based on characteristics of a mobile station” ([0036]-[0038], [0046]-[0047], Fig. 3).

Regarding claim 29, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose “the method of claim 26, further comprising executing the selected one of the plurality of encoding parameter sets for each of the first and second users using an encoder” ([0014], Fig. 1 item 125).

Regarding claim 32, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose “the method of claim 25, further comprising receiving the multimedia stream at a decoder and decoding the received stream to render output a decoded stream” ([0036]-[0038], [0046]-[0047], Figs. 3 and 5).

Regarding claim 34, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose “the method of claim 25, further comprising executing the selected at least one of the encoding parameter sets for each of the first and second users using an encoder” ([0014], Fig. 1 item 125).

Regarding claim 35, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose “the method of claim 25, further comprising wirelessly transmitting the re-encoded stream sets for each of the first and second users” ([0003], [0007], [0035], Fig. 1 item 130, a transmitter and receiver at both ends for bi-directional wireless communications would be necessary).

Regarding claim 36, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose “the method of claim 25, further comprising generating an output, configurable for handheld devices that require a first frame rate and a first bandwidth” ([0002], [0036]-[0038], [0046]-[0047]).

Regarding claim 38, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose “the method of claim 25,

wherein the received stream includes a stream of a first resolution, and

wherein for the first user the encoding system re-encodes the received stream of the first resolution to stream of a second resolution, a first frame rate and a first bandwidth” ([0002], [0036]-[0038], [0046]-[0047], [0056], Fig. 3).

Regarding claim 42, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose “the method of claim 25, wherein selecting at least one of the plurality of encoding parameter sets comprises selecting two or more of the plurality of encoding parameter sets in accordance with the encoding scheme,

wherein selectively re-encoding the received stream comprises selectively re-encoding the received stream using the selected two or more of the plurality of encoding parameter sets”(when two types of data are being streamed such as image and video or video and audio).

Regarding claim 44, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose “the method of claim 25, further comprising receiving the multimedia stream from a mobile station” ([0003], [0035]).

Regarding claim 45, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose “the method of claim 44, wherein the mobile station is operable in the wireless communication system” ([0003], [0035]).

Regarding claim 46, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose “the method of claim 25, further comprising the multimedia stream is received using an over the air communication air interface” ([0007], [0035]).

Regarding claim 47, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose “the method of claim 25, further comprising receiving the multimedia stream via an internet connection” ([0003], [0035]).

Regarding claim 49, Christopoulos discloses “an apparatus, operable in a wireless communication system, comprising:

means for receiving, within the wireless communication system, a decoded stream;” ([0033], [0035]-[0036], Fig. 1 item 120 gateway with item 125 transcoder receives a multimedia stream from item 113 multimedia storage)

“means for determining a user preference for selectively re-encoding the decoded stream;” ([0035])

“means for selecting, within the wireless communication system, at least one of a plurality of encoding parameter sets in accordance with an encoding scheme to use for re-encoding the received stream” ([0007], [0037]-[0038], [0046], Fig. 1, Fig. 3 items 350 and 360, item 125 the transcoder selects a scheme to re-encode multimedia stream based upon various factors including user preference).

“wherein the encoding scheme includes a scheme based on the user preference” ([0035]).

“wherein the decoded stream includes a plurality of different types of data” [0039], [0046])

“means for re-encoding, within the wireless communication system, the received decoded stream to output an encoded stream in accordance with the selected one of the plurality of encoding parameter sets” ([0036]).

But, while Christopoulos states selecting multiple different sets to encode two different types of multimedia data being image (Fig. 4, [0039]) and video (Fig. 5, [0046]) where the user preferences determine which set to use (the hints associated with each data packet used to select an encoding set), Christopoulos does not explicitly state the use of a third encoding parameter set for encoding multiple types of the plurality of types of data.

However, Kost discloses an encoding set to encode both video and audio data and an encoding set to encode audio data ([0079]-[0080], [0084], Fig. 1).

Further, while Christopoulos states the user preference further specifies a demand to provide the multimedia stream at a lowest cost (where cost is assumed to be bandwidth) and selecting one of the plurality of encoding parameter sets that provides a high rate of compression and a lower quality of service to provide the lowest cost in accordance with the demand specified by the user preference (when the hint associated with the data packet indicating user preference indicates a high rate of compression and a lower quality), Christopoulos does not explicitly state the preference being with respect to a lower billing cost only with respect to a lower bandwidth cost.

However, Short discloses where a user selects a preference indicating a bandwidth cost, where the bandwidth cost is correlated to a billing cost, the lower the bandwidth cost the lower the billing cost (col. 13 line 58 - col. 14 line 2).

In addition, Christopoulos does not explicitly state there being a first and second user, the first user preferences resulting in a lower quality of service than a second user, where the second user preferences determine the second users quality of service.

However, Mantha discloses based providing voice and data to users (subscribers) determined by pricing schemes, where a second user may pay more for a higher quality of service relative to a first user ([0082]).

Therefore it would have been obvious at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Christopoulos for adaptive encoding in a wireless communication system that uses multiple encoding parameters sets for specific types of data selected based upon user preferences with the teachings of Kost that discloses an encoding set to

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encode both video audio data and an encoding set to encode for only audio data and further with the teachings of Short for associating a user preference of bandwidth cost with billing cost and further with the teachings of Mantha for providing different quality of service to different users based on a pricing schemes and allocation criteria. One would have been motivated to do so to provide the user the capability to place a higher priority on audio data over video data via user preferences for video teleconferencing where it would be desirable to have more accurate audio data than video data and to further provide a user the ability for adaptive billing based on bandwidth cost desired, along with providing the option for different quality of services to different users for the purpose of increasing revenue by accounting for users that may not desire to pay for a higher quality of service or desire a higher quality of service and concordantly for users that may desire to pay for a higher quality of service or require a higher quality of service.

Regarding claim 50, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose “the apparatus of claim 49, further comprising means for selecting the encoding scheme from a group of encoding schemes that includes one or more of a scheme based on a system bandwidth, a scheme based on a wireless receiver capability, t scheme based on a number of users requesting a specific multimedia stream at a designated QoS, a scheme based on a multimedia data type, the scheme based on the user preference and a scheme based on characteristics of a mobile station” ([0036]-[0038], [0046]-[0047], Fig. 3).

Regarding claim 53, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose “the apparatus of claim 50, further comprising means for executing the selected one of the plurality of encoding parameter sets for each of the first and second users using an encoder” ([0014], Fig. 1 item 125).

Regarding claim 56, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose “the apparatus of claim 49, further comprising means for receiving the multimedia stream at a decoder and decoding the received stream to output the decoded stream” ([0036]-[0038], [0046]-[0047], Figs. 3 and 5).

Regarding claim 58, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose “the apparatus of claim 49, further comprising means for executing the selected one of the encoding parameters sets for each of the first and second users using an encoder” ([0014], Fig. 1 item 125).

Regarding claim 59, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose “the apparatus of claim 49, further comprising means for transmitting the re-encoded stream for each of the first and second users” ([0003], [0007], [0035], Fig. 1 item 130, a transmitter and receiver at both ends for bi-directional wireless communications would be necessary).

Regarding claim 60, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose “the apparatus of claim 49, further comprising means for generating an output, configurable for handheld devices that require a first frame rate and a first bandwidth” ([0002], [0036]-[0038], [0046]-[0047]).

Regarding claim 62, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose “the apparatus of claim 49, wherein the received stream comprises a stream of a first resolution and means for re-encoding the received stream comprises for the first user, means for re-encoding the stream of the first resolution to a stream of a second resolution, a first frame rate and a first bandwidth” ([0002], [0036]-[0038], [0046]-[0047], [0056], Fig. 3).

Regarding claim 66, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose “the apparatus of claim 49, wherein the means for selecting at least one of the plurality of encoding parameter sets comprises selecting two or more of the plurality of encoding parameter sets in accordance with the encoding scheme,

wherein selectively re-encoding the received stream comprises selectively re-encoding the received stream using the selected two or more of the plurality of encoding parameter sets” (when two types of data are being streamed such as image and video or video and audio).

Regarding claim 68, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose “the apparatus of claim 49, further comprising means for receiving the multimedia stream from a mobile station” ([0003], [0035]).

Regarding claim 69, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose “the apparatus of claim 68, wherein the mobile station phone is operable in wireless communication system” ([0003], [0035]).

Regarding claim 70, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose “the apparatus of claim 49, further comprising means for receiving the multimedia stream via a communication air interface” ([0007], [0035]).

Regarding claim 71, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose “the apparatus of claim 49, further comprising means for receiving the multimedia stream via an internet connection” ([0003], [0035]).

Regarding claim 73, Christopoulos discloses “a mobile station, operable in a communication system, comprising:

a transceiver configured to communicate with a wireless provider system; and” ([0003], [0007], [0035], Fig. 1 item 130, a transmitter and receiver at both ends for bi-directional wireless communications would be necessary)

“a processor for displaying a multimedia stream received from the wireless provider system via the transceiver, wherein the multimedia stream is encoded using one of a plurality of encoding parameter sets in accordance with an encoding scheme selected from a group of encoding schemes” ([0036]-[0039], [0046], Fig. 3).

“wherein the selected encoding scheme comprises a scheme based a user preference,” ([0036])

But, while Christopoulos states selecting multiple different sets to encode two different types of multimedia data being image (Fig. 4, [0039]) and video (Fig. 5, [0046]) where the user preferences determine which set to use (the hints associated with each data packet used to select an encoding set), Christopoulos does not explicitly state the use of a third encoding parameter set for encoding multiple types of the plurality of types of data.

However, Kost discloses an encoding set to encode both video and audio data and an encoding set to encode audio data ([0079]-[0080], [0084], Fig. 1).

Further, while Christopoulos states the user preference further specifies a demand to provide the multimedia stream at a lowest cost (where cost is assumed to be bandwidth) and selecting one of the plurality of encoding parameter sets that provides a high rate of compression and a lower quality of service to provide the lowest cost in accordance with the demand specified by the user preference (when the hint associated

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with the data packet indicating user preference indicates a high rate of compression and a lower quality), Christopoulos does not explicitly state the preference being with respect to a lower billing cost only with respect to a lower bandwidth cost.

However, Short discloses where a user selects a preference indicating a bandwidth cost, where the bandwidth cost is correlated to a billing cost, the lower the bandwidth cost the lower the billing cost (col. 13 line 58 - col. 14 line 2).

In addition, Christopoulos does not explicitly state there being a first and second user, the first user preferences resulting in a lower quality of service than a second user, where the second user preferences determine the second users quality of service.

However, Mantha discloses based providing voice and data to users (subscribers) determined by pricing schemes, where a second user may pay more for a higher quality of service relative to a first user ([0082]).

Therefore it would have been obvious at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Christopoulos for adaptive encoding in a wireless communication system that uses multiple encoding parameters sets for specific types of data selected based upon user preferences with the teachings of Kost that discloses an encoding set to encode both video audio data and an encoding set to encode for only audio data and further with the teachings of Short for associating a user preference of bandwidth cost with billing cost and further with the teachings of Mantha for providing different quality of service to different users based on a pricing schemes and allocation criteria. One would have been motivated to do so to provide the user the capability to place a higher priority

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on audio data over video data via user preferences for video teleconferencing where it would be desirable to have more accurate audio data than video data and to further provide a user the ability for adaptive billing based on bandwidth cost desired, along with providing the option for different quality of services to different users for the purpose of increasing revenue by accounting for users that may not desire to pay for a higher quality of service or desire a higher quality of service and concordantly for users that may desire to pay for a higher quality of service or require a higher quality of service.

Regarding claim 74, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose “the mobile station of claimed in 73, wherein the group of encoding schemes includes one or more of a scheme based on a system bandwidth, a scheme based on system bandwidth, a scheme based on a wireless receiver capability, a scheme based on a number of users requesting a specific multimedia stream at a designated QoS, a scheme based on a multimedia data type, the scheme based on the user preference and a scheme based on characteristics of a mobile station” ([0036]-[0038], [0046]-[0047], Figs. 3 and 5).

Regarding claim 77, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose “the mobile station of claim 74, further comprising an encoder for executing the one of the encoder parameter sets for each of the first and second users based on the encoding scheme” ([0014], [0035], Fig. 1 item 125).

Regarding claim 79, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose “the mobile station of claim 74, further comprising a bandwidth manager for determining the available bandwidth for a requested multimedia stream” ([0007], [0035]-[0036], [0046]).

Regarding claim 80, Christopoulos discloses “a communication system, comprising:

“a customer manager to determine a user preference for selective re-encoding of a multimedia stream” ([0035], [0036]-[0038], [0046], Figs. 2-3 and 5)

“an encode manager for receiving the multimedia stream, wherein the multimedia is at a first resolution; and” ([0033], [0035]-[0036], [0046]-[0047], Fig. 1 item 120 gateway with item 125 transcoder receives a multimedia stream from item 113 multimedia storage)

“an encoder system for re encoding the received stream to a second resolution using an encoding parameter set selected from a plurality of encoding parameter sets to selectively render an encoded stream with principles set forth by the selected encoding parameter set, wherein the selected encoding parameter set is determined based on an encoding scheme selected from a group of encoding schemes” ([0037]-[0038], [0046], Fig. 1, Fig. 3 items 350 and 360, item 125 the transcoder selects a scheme to re-encode multimedia stream based upon various factors)

“wherein the encoding scheme comprises a scheme based on user preference” ([0036]).

But, while Christopoulos states selecting multiple different sets to encode two different types of multimedia data being image (Fig. 4, [0039]) and video (Fig. 5, [0046]) where the user preferences determine which set to use (the hints associated with each data packet used to select an encoding set), Christopoulos does not explicitly state the use of a third encoding parameter set for encoding multiple types of the plurality of types of data.

However, Kost discloses an encoding set to encode both video and audio data and an encoding set to encode audio data ([0079]-[0080], [0084], Fig. 1).

Further, while Christopoulos states the user preference further specifies a demand to provide the multimedia stream at a lowest cost (where cost is assumed to be bandwidth) and selecting one of the plurality of encoding parameter sets that provides a high rate of compression and a lower quality of service to provide the lowest cost in accordance with the demand specified by the user preference (when the hint associated with the data packet indicating user preference indicates a high rate of compression and a lower quality), Christopoulos does not explicitly state the preference being with respect to a lower billing cost only with respect to a lower bandwidth cost.

However, Short discloses where a user selects a preference indicating a bandwidth cost, where the bandwidth cost is correlated to a billing cost, the lower the bandwidth cost the lower the billing cost (col. 13 line 58 - col. 14 line 2).

In addition, Christopoulos does not explicitly state there being a first and second user, the first user preferences resulting in a lower quality of service than a second user, where the second user preferences determine the second users quality of service.

However, Mantha discloses based providing voice and data to users (subscribers) determined by pricing schemes, where a second user may pay more for a higher quality of service relative to a first user ([0082]).

Therefore it would have been obvious at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Christopoulos for adaptive encoding in a wireless communication system that uses multiple encoding parameters sets for specific types of data selected based upon user preferences with the teachings of Kost that discloses an encoding set to encode both video audio data and an encoding set to encode for only audio data and further with the teachings of Short for associating a user preference of bandwidth cost with billing cost and further with the teachings of Mantha for providing different quality of service to different users based on a pricing schemes and allocation criteria. One would have been motivated to do so to provide the user the capability to place a higher priority on audio data over video data via user preferences for video teleconferencing where it would be desirable to have more accurate audio data than video data and to further provide a user the ability for adaptive billing based on bandwidth cost desired, along with providing the option for different quality of services to different users for the purpose of increasing revenue by accounting for users that may not desire to pay for a higher quality of service or desire a higher quality of service and concordantly for users

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that may desire to pay for a higher quality of service or require a higher quality of service.

Regarding claim 81, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose “a communication system, comprising:

at least one decoder receiving incoming encoded multimedia streams and decoding the streams to render decoded streams;” ([0033], [0045]-[0036], [0046]-[0047], Fig. 1 item 120 gateway with item 125 transcoder receives a multimedia stream from item 113 multimedia storage)

“a customer manager to determine a user preference for selective re-encoding of a decoded stream” ([0035], [0036]-[0038], [0046], Figs. 2-3 and 5)

“at least one encoding system configured for receiving the decoded stream and encoding the decoded stream using at least one of a plurality of encoding parameter sets to render an encoded stream;

“at least one computer that selects the at least one of the plurality of encoding parameter based on a user preference, wherein at least one of the multimedia streams includes a plurality of different types of data, wherein the plurality of encoding parameter sets include a first encoding parameter set for encoding only a first type of the plurality of types of data, a second encoding parameter set for encoding only a second type of the plurality of types of data different from the first type” ([0036]-[0039], [0046]-[0047], Fig. 1, Fig. 3)

“at least one wireless transceiver for transmitting an encoded stream” ([0003], [0007], [0035], Fig. 1 item 130, a transmitter and receiver at both ends for bi-directional wireless communications would be necessary)

But, while Christopoulos states selecting multiple different sets to encode two different types of multimedia data being image (Fig. 4, [0039]) and video (Fig. 5, [0046]) where the user preferences determine which set to use (the hints associated with each data packet used to select an encoding set), Christopoulos does not explicitly state the use of a third encoding parameter set for encoding multiple types of the plurality of types of data.

However, Kost discloses an encoding set to encode both video and audio data and an encoding set to encode audio data ([0079]-[0080], [0084], Fig. 1).

Further, while Christopoulos states the user preference further specifies a demand to provide the multimedia stream at a lowest cost (where cost is assumed to be bandwidth) and selecting one of the plurality of encoding parameter sets that provides a high rate of compression and a lower quality of service to provide the lowest cost in accordance with the demand specified by the user preference (when the hint associated with the data packet indicating user preference indicates a high rate of compression and a lower quality), Christopoulos does not explicitly state the preference being with respect to a lower billing cost only with respect to a lower bandwidth cost.

However, Short discloses where a user selects a preference indicating a bandwidth cost, where the bandwidth cost is correlated to a billing cost, the lower the bandwidth cost the lower the billing cost (col. 13 line 58 - col. 14 line 2).

In addition, Christopoulos does not explicitly state there being a first and second user, the first user preferences resulting in a lower quality of service than a second user, where the second user preferences determine the second users quality of service.

However, Mantha discloses based providing voice and data to users (subscribers) determined by pricing schemes, where a second user may pay more for a higher quality of service relative to a first user ([0082]).

Therefore it would have been obvious at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Christopoulos for adaptive encoding in a wireless communication system that uses multiple encoding parameters sets for specific types of data selected based upon user preferences with the teachings of Kost that discloses an encoding set to encode both video audio data and an encoding set to encode for only audio data and further with the teachings of Short for associating a user preference of bandwidth cost with billing cost and further with the teachings of Mantha for providing different quality of service to different users based on a pricing schemes and allocation criteria. One would have been motivated to do so to provide the user the capability to place a higher priority on audio data over video data via user preferences for video teleconferencing where it would be desirable to have more accurate audio data than video data and to further provide a user the ability for adaptive billing based on bandwidth cost desired, along with providing the option for different quality of services to different users for the purpose of increasing revenue by accounting for users that may not desire to pay for a higher quality of service or desire a higher quality of service and concordantly for users

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that may desire to pay for a higher quality of service or require a higher quality of service.

Regarding claim 84, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose “the system of Claim 81, wherein the computer further determines which of the plurality of encoding parameter sets to use for each of the first and second users based at least in part on a wireless mobile receiver capability” ([0035], [0036]-[0038], [0046], Figs. 3 and 5).

Regarding claim 85, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose “the system of Claim 81, wherein the computer further determines which of the plurality of encoding parameter sets to use for each of the first and second users based at least in part on a number of users requesting a specific multimedia stream at a designated QoS for that stream” ([0035], [0036]-[0038], [0046], Figs. 3 and 5).

Regarding claim 86, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose “the system of Claim 81, wherein the computer further determines which of the plurality of encoding parameter sets to use for each of the first and second users based at least in part on a multimedia data type” ([0035], [0036]-[0038], [0046], Figs. 3 and 5).

Regarding claim 91, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose “the system of Claim 81, wherein at least one of the plurality of encoding parameter sets is

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capable of encoding a multimedia stream at a resolution of a quarter common intermediate format (QCIF) or smaller" ([0046]-[0047]).

Regarding claim 93, Christopoulos discloses "a method for wirelessly providing digital multimedia within a wireless communication system, comprising:

- receiving an encoded multimedia stream;

- decoding the stream to render a decoded stream;

- selecting at least one of a plurality of encoding schemes to re encode the stream at a wireless provider facility to render a re-encoded stream based on a user preference

"wherein at least one of the multimedia streams includes a plurality of different types of data, wherein the plurality of encoding parameter sets include a first encoding parameter set for encoding only a first type of the plurality of types of data, a second encoding parameter set for encoding only a second type of the plurality of types of data different from the first type" ([0036]-[0039], [0046]-[0047], Figs. 4-5)

- wirelessly transmitting the re-encoded stream to at least one wireless mobile station" ([0035], [0036]-[0038], [0046]-[0047], Figs. 3 and 5).

But, while Christopoulos states selecting multiple different sets to encode two different types of multimedia data being image (Fig. 4, [0039]) and video (Fig. 5, [0046]) where the user preferences determine which set to use (the hints associated with each data packet used to select an encoding set), Christopoulos does not explicitly state the

use of a third encoding parameter set for encoding multiple types of the plurality of types of data.

However, Kost discloses an encoding set to encode both video and audio data and an encoding set to encode audio data ([0079]-[0080], [0084], Fig. 1).

Further, while Christopoulos states the user preference further specifies a demand to provide the multimedia stream at a lowest cost (where cost is assumed to be bandwidth) and selecting one of the plurality of encoding parameter sets that provides a high rate of compression and a lower quality of service to provide the lowest cost in accordance with the demand specified by the user preference (when the hint associated with the data packet indicating user preference indicates a high rate of compression and a lower quality), Christopoulos does not explicitly state the preference being with respect to a lower billing cost only with respect to a lower bandwidth cost.

However, Short discloses where a user selects a preference indicating a bandwidth cost, where the bandwidth cost is correlated to a billing cost, the lower the bandwidth cost the lower the billing cost (col. 13 line 58 - col. 14 line 2).

In addition, Christopoulos does not explicitly state there being a first and second user, the first user preferences resulting in a lower quality of service than a second user, where the second user preferences determine the second users quality of service.

However, Mantha discloses based providing voice and data to users (subscribers) determined by pricing schemes, where a second user may pay more for a higher quality of service relative to a first user ([0082]).

Therefore it would have been obvious at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Christopoulos for adaptive encoding in a wireless communication system that uses multiple encoding parameters sets for specific types of data selected based upon user preferences with the teachings of Kost that discloses an encoding set to encode both video audio data and an encoding set to encode for only audio data and further with the teachings of Short for associating a user preference of bandwidth cost with billing cost and further with the teachings of Mantha for providing different quality of service to different users based on a pricing schemes and allocation criteria. One would have been motivated to do so to provide the user the capability to place a higher priority on audio data over video data via user preferences for video teleconferencing where it would be desirable to have more accurate audio data than video data and to further provide a user the ability for adaptive billing based on bandwidth cost desired, along with providing the option for different quality of services to different users for the purpose of increasing revenue by accounting for users that may not desire to pay for a higher quality of service or desire a higher quality of service and concordantly for users that may desire to pay for a higher quality of service or require a higher quality of service.

Regarding claim 94, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose “the method of Claim 93, wherein the selecting act is undertaken dynamically” ([0036]-[0038], [0046]-[0047], Fig. 5).

Regarding claim 96, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose “the method of Claim 93, wherein the selecting act is undertaken based at least in part on a wireless mobile receiver capability” ([0036]-[0038], [0046]-[0047], Fig. 5).

Regarding claim 101, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose “the method of Claim 93, wherein the selecting act is undertaken based at least in part on a multimedia data type” ([0036]-[0038], [0046]-[0047], Fig. 5).

Regarding claim 102, Christopoulos discloses “a wireless provider system, comprising:

means for decoding a received encoded multimedia stream, wherein the encoded multimedia stream includes a plurality of different types of data;” ([0039], [0046])

“first means for re-encoding the stream only a first type of the plurality of types of the data;” ([0039])

“second means for re-encoding the stream only a second type different from the first type of the plurality of types of the data;” ([0046])

logic means for determining which one of the first, second means for re-encoding to use, based on at least one factor that includes a user preference, wherein the user preference indicates which of the first, second means to use when encoding the multimedia stream” ([0035], [0036]-[0038], [0046]-[0047], Figs. 3 and 5).

But, while Christopoulos states selecting multiple different sets to encode two different types of multimedia data being image (Fig. 4, [0039]) and video (Fig. 5, [0046]) where the user preferences determine which set to use (the hints associated with each data packet used to select an encoding set), Christopoulos does not explicitly state the use of a third encoding parameter set for encoding multiple types of the plurality of types of data.

However, Kost discloses an encoding set to encode both video and audio data and an encoding set to encode audio data ([0079]-[0080], [0084], Fig. 1).

Further, while Christopoulos states the user preference further specifies a demand to provide the multimedia stream at a lowest cost (where cost is assumed to be bandwidth) and selecting one of the plurality of encoding parameter sets that provides a high rate of compression and a lower quality of service to provide the lowest cost in accordance with the demand specified by the user preference (when the hint associated with the data packet indicating user preference indicates a high rate of compression and a lower quality), Christopoulos does not explicitly state the preference being with respect to a lower billing cost only with respect to a lower bandwidth cost.

However, Short discloses where a user selects a preference indicating a bandwidth cost, where the bandwidth cost is correlated to a billing cost, the lower the bandwidth cost the lower the billing cost (col. 13 line 58 - col. 14 line 2).

In addition, Christopoulos does not explicitly state there being a first and second user, the first user preferences resulting in a lower quality of service than a second user, where the second user preferences determine the second users quality of service.

However, Mantha discloses based providing voice and data to users (subscribers) determined by pricing schemes, where a second user may pay more for a higher quality of service relative to a first user ([0082]).

Therefore it would have been obvious at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Christopoulos for adaptive encoding in a wireless communication system that uses multiple encoding parameters sets for specific types of data selected based upon user preferences with the teachings of Kost that discloses an encoding set to encode both video audio data and an encoding set to encode for only audio data and further with the teachings of Short for associating a user preference of bandwidth cost with billing cost and further with the teachings of Mantha for providing different quality of service to different users based on a pricing schemes and allocation criteria. One would have been motivated to do so to provide the user the capability to place a higher priority on audio data over video data via user preferences for video teleconferencing where it would be desirable to have more accurate audio data than video data and to further provide a user the ability for adaptive billing based on bandwidth cost desired, along with providing the option for different quality of services to different users for the purpose of increasing revenue by accounting for users that may not desire to pay for a higher quality of service or desire a higher quality of service and concordantly for users

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that may desire to pay for a higher quality of service or require a higher quality of service.

Regarding claim 105, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose “the system of Claim 102, wherein the first and second user preferences include a factor that defines a wireless user characteristic” ([0036]-[0038], [0046]-[0047], Fig. 5).

Regarding claim 106, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose “the system of Claim 102, wherein the first and second user preferences include a factor that defines a multimedia data type” ([0036]-[0038], [0046]-[0047], Fig. 5).

Regarding claim 111, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose “the system of claim 102, wherein first and second user preferences include a factor selected from group of factors that include a factor based on a system bandwidth, a factor based on a current available system bandwidth, a factor based on a wireless user characteristic, a factor based on a number of users requesting a specific multimedia stream at a designated QoS a factor based on a multimedia data type and the factor based on the wireless user preference” ([0036]-[0038], [0046]-[0047], Fig. 5).

Regarding claim 112, Christopoulos discloses “a communication system, comprising:

decoder means for receiving incoming encoded multimedia streams and decoding the streams to output decoded streams;" ([0033], [0045]-[0036], [0046]-[0047], Fig. 1 item 120 gateway with item 125 transcoder receives a multimedia stream from item 113 multimedia storage)

"encoder means for receiving and encoding at least one of the decoded streams using one of a plurality of encoding parameter sets to output an encoded stream," ([0036])

"wherein the encoder means further includes means for selecting the one of the plurality of encoding schemes based on a user preference, wherein at least one of the multimedia streams includes a plurality of different types of data, wherein the plurality of encoding parameter sets include a first encoding parameter set for encoding only a first type of the plurality of types of data, a second encoding parameter set for encoding only a second type of the plurality of types of data different from the first type" ([0036]-[0039], [0046]-[0047], Fig. 1, Figs. 4-5)

But, Christopoulos does not explicitly state dynamically determining a current bandwidth available for the multimedia stream based on a current number and types of users. However, Kost teaches dynamically estimating the available bandwidth available and transcodes the stream based on a current number and types of users ([0020], [0035], Figs. 2-3)

Further, while Christopoulos states the user preference further specifies a demand to provide the multimedia stream at a lowest cost (where cost is assumed to be bandwidth) and selecting one of the plurality of encoding parameter sets that provides

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a high rate of compression and a lower quality of service to provide the lowest cost in accordance with the demand specified by the user preference (when the hint associated with the data packet indicating user preference indicates a high rate of compression and a lower quality), Christopoulos does not explicitly state the preference being with respect to a lower billing cost only with respect to a lower bandwidth cost.

However, Short discloses where a user selects a preference indicating a bandwidth cost, where the bandwidth cost is correlated to a billing cost, the lower the bandwidth cost the lower the billing cost (col. 13 line 58 - col. 14 line 2).

In addition, Christopoulos does not explicitly state there being a first and second user, the first user preferences resulting in a lower quality of service than a second user, where the second user preferences determine the second users quality of service.

However, Mantha discloses based providing voice and data to users (subscribers) determined by pricing schemes, where a second user may pay more for a higher quality of service relative to a first user ([0082]).

Therefore it would have been obvious at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Christopoulos for adaptive encoding in a wireless communication system that uses multiple encoding parameters sets for specific types of data selected based upon user preferences with the teachings of Kost that discloses an encoding set to encode both video audio data and an encoding set to encode for only audio data and further with the teachings of Short for associating a user preference of bandwidth cost with billing cost and further with the teachings of Mantha for providing different quality of

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service to different users based on a pricing schemes and allocation criteria. One would have been motivated to do so to provide the user the capability to place a higher priority on audio data over video data via user preferences for video teleconferencing where it would be desirable to have more accurate audio data than video data and to further provide a user the ability for adaptive billing based on bandwidth cost desired, along with providing the option for different quality of services to different users for the purpose of increasing revenue by accounting for users that may not desire to pay for a higher quality of service or desire a higher quality of service and concordantly for users that may desire to pay for a higher quality of service or require a higher quality of service.

Regarding claim 115, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose “the system of Claim 112, wherein the encoder means includes means for determining which of the plurality of encoding parameter sets to use based at least in part on a wireless mobile receiver capability” ([0036]-[0038], [0046]-[0047], Fig. 5).

Regarding claim 116, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose “the system of Claim 112, wherein the encoder means includes means for determining which of the plurality of encoding parameter sets to use for each of the first and second user preferences based at least in part on a number of users requesting a specific multimedia stream at a designated QoS for that stream” ([0036]-[0038], [0046]-[0047], Fig. 5).

Regarding claim 117, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose “the system of Claim 112, wherein the encoder means includes means for determining which of the plurality of encoding parameter sets to use for each of the first and second user preferences based at least in part on a multimedia data type” ([0036]-[0038], [0046]-[0047], Fig. 5).

Regarding claim 118, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose “the system of Claim 112, wherein the encoder means includes means for determining which of the plurality of encoding parameter sets to use for each of the first and second user preferences based at least in part on a wireless user preference” ([0036]-[0038], [0046]-[0047], Fig. 5).

Regarding claim 122, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose “the system of Claim 112, wherein at least one of the plurality of encoding parameter sets comprises an encoding parameter set that is used to encode the multimedia stream at a resolution of a quarter common intermediate format (QCIF) or smaller” ([0036]-[0038], [0046]-[0047], Fig. 5).

Regarding claim 124, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose “the system of Claim 81, wherein the computer determines which of the plurality of encoding parameter sets to use based at least in part on a system bandwidth” ([0035]-[0036]).

Regarding claim 125, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose “the system of Claim 81, wherein the computer determines which of the plurality of encoding parameter sets to use for each of the first and second user preferences based at least in part on a current available system bandwidth” ([0035]-[0036]).

Regarding claim 126, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose “the method of Claim 93, wherein the selecting act is undertaken at least in part based on a bandwidth” ([0035]-[0036]).

Regarding claim 127, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose “the system of Claim 102, wherein for each of the first and second user preferences include a factor that defines a system bandwidth” ([0035]-[0036]).

Regarding claim 128, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose “the system of Claim 102, wherein for each of the first and second user preferences include a factor that defines a current available system bandwidth” ([0035]-[0036]).

Regarding claim 129, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose “the system of Claim 112, wherein the encoder means further includes means for determining which of the plurality of encoding parameter sets to use for each of the first

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and second user preferences based at least in part on a system bandwidth” ([0035]-[0036]).

Regarding claim 130, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose “the system of Claim 112, wherein encoder means further includes means for determining which encoding parameter set to use for each of the first and second user preferences based at least in part on a current available system bandwidth” ([0035]-[0036]).

Regarding claim 131, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose “the communication system of Claim 112, wherein the system comprises wireless service provider equipment that wirelessly communicates re-encoded versions of the multimedia stream to different wireless mobile stations ” ([0035], [0036]-[0038], [0046]-[0047], Figs. 3 and 5).

Regarding claim 132, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose “the apparatus of claim 1,

wherein the multimedia stream comprise a plurality of deterrent types of multimedia data, wherein the encoder manager selects the first encoding parameter set for encoding only the first type of the plurality of types of data, wherein the encoder system re-encodes only the first type of the plurality of types of data using the selected first encoding parameter set, and wherein the apparatus only sends the re-encoded first type of the plurality of types of data to a requesting device without sending any of the

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remaining types of the plurality of types of data to the requesting device” (see Christopoulos, [0036], where only data types of a received stream that can be reformatted and handled for transmission to a received device are used and sent).

Regarding claim 133, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose “the wherein the multimedia stream comprises audio, video and text data, wherein the encoder manager selects the first encoding parameter set for encoding only the audio data, wherein the encoder system re-encodes only the audio data using the selected first encoding parameter set, and wherein the apparatus only sends the re-encoded audio data to a requesting device without sending any of the video and text data to the requesting device” (see Christopoulos, [0036], where only data types of a received stream that can be reformatted and handled for transmission to a received device are used and sent).

3. Claims 3-4, 24, 27-28, 48, 51-52, 72, 75-76, 88-90, 98-100, 108-110, and 119-121 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Christopoulos et al. (US 2001/0047517 hereinafter Christopoulos), Kost et al. (US 2002/0154691 hereinafter Kost), Short et al. (US 6,789,110 hereinafter Short) and Mantha et al. (US 2004/0023622 hereinafter Mantha), and in further view of Vetro et al. (US 2004/0203851 hereinafter Vetro)

Regarding claims 3-4, 24, 27-28, 48, 51-52, and 72, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose the limitations of claims 1-2, 25-26, and 49-50, as described

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above, but while Christopoulos discloses selecting an encoding means based on various parameters such as user preferences and multimedia data type, Christopoulos does not explicitly state doing so with a corresponding billing scheme.

However, Vetro teaches the delivery of content with content adaptation via transcoding ([0079]-[0082]), where a billing method is agreed upon for the content delivery ([0067], [0073]-[0078]), and billing method is based on various factors including environment descriptions ([0035]-[0041]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Christopoulos for selecting a more customized encoding means based on various parameters such as user preferences and multimedia data type with the teachings of Vetro for selecting a more customized encoding means based on various parameters such as user preferences and multimedia data type with corresponding billing scheme. One would have been motivated to do so, for the purpose of generating a more adaptable billing scheme based on a more customized encoding and delivery of data.

Regarding claims 75-76, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose the mobile station of claim 74 as described above, but while Christopoulos discloses selecting an encoding means based on various parameters such as user preferences and multimedia data type, Christopoulos does not explicitly state doing so with a corresponding billing scheme.

However, Vetro teaches the delivery of content with content adaptation via transcoding ([0079]-[0082]), where a billing method is agreed upon for the content delivery ([0067], [0073]-[0078]), and billing method is based on various factors including environment descriptions ([0035]-[0041]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Christopoulos and Kost for selecting a more customized encoding means based on various parameters such as user preferences and multimedia data type with the teachings of Vetro for selecting a more customized encoding means based on various parameters such as user preferences and multimedia data type with corresponding billing scheme. One would have been motivated to do so, for the purpose of generating a more adaptable billing scheme based on a more customized encoding and delivery of data.

Regarding claims 88-90, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose the system of claim 86 as described above, but while Christopoulos discloses selecting an encoding means based on various parameters such as user preferences and multimedia data type, Christopoulos does not explicitly state doing so with a corresponding billing scheme.

However, Vetro teaches the delivery of content with content adaptation via transcoding ([0079]-[0082]), where a billing method is agreed upon for the content

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delivery ([0067], [0073]-[0078]), and billing method is based on various factors including environment descriptions ([0035]-[0041]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Christopoulos and Kost for selecting a more customized encoding means based on various parameters such as user preferences and multimedia data type with the teachings of Vetro for selecting a more customized encoding means based on various parameters such as user preferences and multimedia data type with corresponding billing scheme. One would have been motivated to do so, for the purpose of generating a more adaptable billing scheme based on a more customized encoding and delivery of data.

Regarding claims 98-100, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose the method of claim 93 as described above, but while Christopoulos discloses selecting an encoding means based on various parameters such as user preferences and multimedia data type, Christopoulos does not explicitly state doing so with a corresponding billing scheme.

However, Vetro teaches the delivery of content with content adaptation via transcoding ([0079]-[0082]), where a billing method is agreed upon for the content delivery ([0067], [0073]-[0078]), and billing method is based on various factors including environment descriptions ([0035]-[0041]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Christopoulos and Kost for selecting a more customized encoding means based on various parameters such as user preferences and multimedia data type with the teachings of Vetro for selecting a more customized encoding means based on various parameters such as user preferences and multimedia data type with corresponding billing scheme. One would have been motivated to do so, for the purpose of generating a more adaptable billing scheme based on a more customized encoding and delivery of data.

Regarding claims 108-110, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose the system of claim 102 as described above, but while Christopoulos discloses selecting an encoding means based on various parameters such as user preferences and multimedia data type, Christopoulos does not explicitly state doing so with a corresponding billing scheme.

However, Vetro teaches the delivery of content with content adaptation via transcoding ([0079]-[0082]), where a billing method is agreed upon for the content delivery ([0067], [0073]-[0078]), and billing method is based on various factors including environment descriptions ([0035]-[0041]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Christopoulos and Kost for selecting a more customized encoding means based on various parameters such as

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user preferences and multimedia data type with the teachings of Vetro for selecting a more customized encoding means based on various parameters such as user preferences and multimedia data type with corresponding billing scheme. One would have been motivated to do so, for the purpose of generating a more adaptable billing scheme based on a more customized encoding and delivery of data.

Regarding claims 119-121, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose the system of claim 112 as described above, but while Christopoulos discloses selecting an encoding means based on various parameters such as user preferences and multimedia data type, Christopoulos does not explicitly state doing so with a corresponding billing scheme.

However, Vetro teaches the delivery of content with content adaptation via transcoding ([0079]-[0082]), where a billing method is agreed upon for the content delivery ([0067], [0073]-[0078]), and billing method is based on various factors including environment descriptions ([0035]-[0041]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Christopoulos and Kost for selecting a more customized encoding means based on various parameters such as user preferences and multimedia data type with the teachings of Vetro for selecting a more customized encoding means based on various parameters such as user preferences and multimedia data type with corresponding billing scheme. One would

have been motivated to do so, for the purpose of generating a more adaptable billing scheme based on a more customized encoding and delivery of data.

4. Claims 6, 30, 54, and 78 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Christopoulos et al. (US 2001/0047517 hereinafter Christopoulos) and in view of Kost et al. (US 2002/0154691 hereinafter Kost), Short et al. (US 6,789,110 hereinafter Short) and Mantha et al. (US 2004/0023622 hereinafter Mantha) as applied to claims 2, 26, 50, and 74 above, and in view of Wang et al. (US 2002/0152317 hereinafter Wang).

Regarding claim 6, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose the apparatus of claim 2 as described above, but while Christopoulos teaches selecting an encoding scheme based on various parameters and subsequently encoding and received stream, Christopoulos does not explicitly state the apparatus "comprising a plurality of encoders, each for executing the encoder parameter set based on the encoding scheme".

However, Wang teaches a transcoder using a plurality of encoders each for executing an encoder parameter set ([0027], Fig. 6), where the transcoder receives an encoded stream, decodes the encoded stream with a decoder (Fig. 6 item 62) then re-encodes the received stream via selection of a plurality of encoders (Fig. 6 items 64A-

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N) creating the possibility of multiple output streams to clients using multiple different encoding parameters sets specific to the clients ([0028]-[0029], [0030]-[0035]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to combine the teachings of Christopoulos and Kost for selecting an encoding means when re-encoding a receiving stream based upon various parameters via use of a transcoder with the teachings of Wang for use of multiple encoders in a transcoder as an encoding means when re-encoding a receiving stream based upon parameters. One would have been motivated to use multiple encoders and a decoder in a transcoder as opposed to multiple transcoders for the purpose of using a single transcoder to process the same stream for an output encoding scheme as necessary for any requesting clients as suggested by Wang ([0030]-[0031]).

Regarding claim 30, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose the method of claim 26 as described above, but while Christopoulos teaches selecting an encoding scheme based on various parameters and subsequently encoding and received stream, Christopoulos does not explicitly state the method “comprising executing the encoder parameter set using a plurality of encoders”.

However, Wang teaches a transcoder using a plurality of encoders each for executing an encoder parameter set ([0027], Fig. 6), where the transcoder receives an encoded stream, decodes the encoded stream with a decoder (Fig. 6 item 62) then re-encodes the received stream via selection of a plurality of encoders (Fig. 6 items 64A-

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N) creating the possibility of multiple output streams to clients using multiple different encoding parameters sets specific to the clients ([0028]-[0029], [0030]-[0035]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to combine the teachings of Christopoulos and Kost for selecting an encoding means when re-encoding a receiving stream based upon various parameters via use of a transcoder with the teachings of Wang for use of multiple encoders in a transcoder as an encoding means when re-encoding a receiving stream based upon parameters. One would have been motivated to use multiple encoders and a decoder in a transcoder as opposed to multiple transcoders for the purpose of using a single transcoder to process the same stream for an output encoding scheme as necessary for any requesting clients as suggested by Wang ([0030]-[0031]).

Regarding claim 54, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose the apparatus of claim 50 as described above, but while Christopoulos teaches selecting an encoding scheme based on various parameters and subsequently encoding and received stream, Christopoulos does not explicitly state the apparatus “comprising means for executing the encoder parameter set using a plurality of encoders”.

However, Wang teaches a transcoder using a plurality of encoders each for executing an encoder parameter set ([0027], Fig. 6), where the transcoder receives an encoded stream, decodes the encoded stream with a decoder (Fig. 6 item 62) then re-encodes the received stream via selection of a plurality of encoders (Fig. 6 items 64A-

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N) creating the possibility of multiple output streams to clients using multiple different encoding parameters sets specific to the clients ([0028]-[0029], [0030]-[0035]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to combine the teachings of Christopoulos and Kost for selecting an encoding means when re-encoding a receiving stream based upon various parameters via use of a transcoder with the teachings of Wang for use of multiple encoders in a transcoder as an encoding means when re-encoding a receiving stream based upon parameters. One would have been motivated to use multiple encoders and a decoder in a transcoder as opposed to multiple transcoders for the purpose of using a single transcoder to process the same stream for an output encoding scheme as necessary for any requesting clients as suggested by Wang ([0030]-[0031]).

Regarding claim 78, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose the mobile station of claim 74 as described above, but while Christopoulos teaches selecting an encoding scheme based on various parameters and subsequently encoding and received stream, Christopoulos does not explicitly state the apparatus "comprising a plurality of encoders, each for executing the encoder parameter set based on the encoding scheme".

However, Wang teaches a transcoder using a plurality of encoders each for executing an encoder parameter set ([0027], Fig. 6), where the transcoder receives an encoded stream, decodes the encoded stream with a decoder (Fig. 6 item 62) then re-

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encodes the received stream via selection of a plurality of encoders (Fig. 6 items 64A-N) creating the possibility of multiple output streams to clients using multiple different encoding parameters sets specific to the clients ([0028]-[0029], [0030]-[0035]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to combine the teachings of Christopoulos and Kost for selecting an encoding means when re-encoding a receiving stream based upon various parameters via use of a transcoder with the teachings of Wang for use of multiple encoders in a transcoder as an encoding means when re-encoding a receiving stream based upon parameters. One would have been motivated to use multiple encoders and a decoder in a transcoder as opposed to multiple transcoders for the purpose of using a single transcoder to process the same stream for an output encoding scheme as necessary for any requesting clients as suggested by Wang ([0030]-[0031]).

5. Claims 13, 15, 37, 39-40, 61, and 63-64 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Christopoulos et al. (US 2001/0047517 hereinafter Christopoulos) in view of Kost et al. (US 2002/0154691 hereinafter Kost), Short et al. (US 6,789,110 hereinafter Short) and Mantha et al. (US 2004/0023622 hereinafter Mantha), and in further view of Anand et al. (US 6,920,179 hereinafter Anand).

Regarding claims 13, 37, and 61, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose the limitations of claims 12, 36, and 60 as described above, but while Christopoulos teaches the use of QCIF which typically transmitted at 10 frames per second, hereinafter 'fps', is within the bandwidth of 16 kilo-bits per second, hereinafter

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kbps, Christopoulos does not explicitly state a first frame rate of 10fps and bandwidth of 16kbps.

However, Anand discloses transcoding in a heterogeneous network for instance a wired-to-wireless network where a received stream (col. 4 line 66 - col. 5 line 31, Fig. 2) may be received from a wired network (Fig. 4 item 420) and subsequently transcoded at a transcoder (Fig 4 item 424) prior to transmission to a mobile receiver (Fig. 4 item 104), into a different encoded stream (col. 7 line 54 – 65, Figs. 3 and 5) at different fps and bps including QCIF at 10fps.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Christopoulos and Kost for transcoding a received stream into various levels including QCIF with the teachings of Anand for transcoding in a heterogeneous network for instance a wired-to-wireless network where a received stream is transcoded into various levels including QCIF at 10fps. One would have been motivated to do so, for the purpose of providing a more customized encoding scheme and better encoding adaptation when transcoding from a source stream via using widely used formats such as QCIF and CIF at varying fps such as 10 and 15fps and varying bps.

Regarding claims 15 and 39, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose the limitations of claims 14, 38, and 62 as described above, but while Christopoulos teaches the use of commonly used resolution formats in video communications such as QCIF and CIF, Christopoulos does not explicitly state a first resolution is VGA format,

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but does state a second resolution and first frame rate configured for a handheld device as described above.

However, Anand discloses transcoding in a heterogeneous network for instance a wired-to-wireless network where a received stream (col. 4 line 66 - col. 5 line 31, Fig. 2) may be received from a wired network (Fig. 4 item 420) and subsequently transcoded at a transcoder (Fig 4 item 424) prior to transmission to a mobile receiver (Fig. 4 item 104), into a different encoded stream (col. 7 line 54 – 65, Figs. 3 and 5) at different fps and bps including QCIF at 10fps, where OFFICIAL NOTICE is taken that the use of VGA widely used in wired communications such as for personal computer monitors, and therefore would have been obvious to try for the purpose of providing compatibility with source streams of widely used wired communication formats such as VGA.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Christopoulos and Kost for transcoding a received stream of various formats with the teachings of Anand for transcoding in a heterogeneous network for instance a wired-to-wireless network where a received stream is transcoded from various wired formats into various wireless formats. One would have been motivated to do so, for providing compatibility with source streams of widely used wired communication formats.

Regarding claims 39-40, and 63-64, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose the limitations of claims 14, 38, and 62 as described above, but while Christopoulos teaches the use of QCIF and CIF which typically transmitted at 10 frames

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per second, hereinafter 'fps', or 15 is within the bandwidth of 16 kilo-bits per second, hereinafter kbps, to 64kbps and 32 to 64 kbps, respectively, Christopoulos does not explicitly state a first frame rate of 10fps and bandwidth of 16kbps.

However, Anand discloses transcoding in a heterogeneous network for instance a wired-to-wireless network where a received stream (col. 4 line 66 - col. 5 line 31, Fig. 2) may be received from a wired network (Fig. 4 item 420) and subsequently transcoded at a transcoder (Fig 4 item 424) prior to transmission to a mobile receiver (Fig. 4 item 104), into a different encoded stream (col. 7 line 54 – 65, Figs. 3 and 5) at different fps and bps including QCIF at 10fps.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Christopoulos and Kost for transcoding a received stream into various levels including QCIF with the teachings of Anand for transcoding in a heterogeneous network for instance a wired-to-wireless network where a received stream is transcoded into various levels including QCIF at 10fps. One would have been motivated to do so, for the purpose of providing a more customized encoding scheme and better encoding adaptation when transcoding from a source stream via using widely used formats such as QCIF and CIF at varying fps such as 10 and 15fps and varying bps.

6. Claim 18, 43, and 67 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Christopoulos et al. (US 2001/0047517 hereinafter Christopoulos) and Kost et al. (US 2002/0154691 hereinafter Kost), Short et al. (US 6,789,110 hereinafter Short) and

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Mantha et al. (US 2004/0023622 hereinafter Mantha) as applied to claims 1, 42 and 66 in view of Patterson (US 6,018,369 hereinafter Patterson) and Tsukagoshi (US 5,731,847 hereinafter Tsukagoshi).

Regarding claims 18, 43 and 67, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose the apparatus of claims 1 and 66 and the method of claim 42,

“wherein the first encoding parameter is only for encoding audio data,” (see Kost [0084])

“wherein the second encoding parameter set is only for encoding video data,” (see Kost [0084], see Christopoulos Fig. 5, [0046])

But, while Christopoulos discloses a parameter set for only encoding a third type of data different from the first two (image data Fig. 4, [0039]), neither Christopoulos nor Short or Kost disclose a third parameter set to encode only text data or selecting a text data type encode with audio and or video data.

However, Tsukagoshi discloses a parameter set (*3rd parameter set*) for only encoding a text data type being closed caption data (where text data is considered the 3rd data type, abstract) and Patterson discloses encoding text data with other data types being video data (abstract, Fig. 3).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha for selectively encoding three types of data in combination or individually with the teachings of Tsukagoshi for encoding text data separately and Patterson for encoding text data with

other data types. One would have been motivated to do so to account for environments to loud for the audio portion to be heard or where bandwidth is limited reducing the ability to provide a more bandwidth intensive video and or audio portion.

7. Claims 92 and 123 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Christopoulos et al. (US 2001/0047517 hereinafter Christopoulos) in view of Kost et al. (US 2002/0136298 hereinafter Kost), Short et al. (US 6,789,110 hereinafter Short) and Mantha et al. (US 2004/0023622 hereinafter Mantha) as applied to claims 14, 38, 62, 81, and 112.

Regarding claim 92, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose the system of claim 81 as described above, but while Christopoulos teaches the use of CIF and QCIF with transcoding along with QCIF being a resolution in an encoding parameter set, Christopoulos does not explicitly state CIF being a resolution in an encoding parameter set. However, OFFICIAL NOTICE is taken that the use of resolutions such as QCIF and CIF are widely used resolution standards for mobile display device, therefore CIF would have been obvious to try for the purpose of providing selection of widely used resolution standards when selecting encoding parameter sets.

Regarding claim 123, Christopoulos, Kost, Short and Mantha disclose the system of claim 112 as described above, but while Christopoulos teaches the use of CIF and QCIF with transcoding along with QCIF being a resolution in an encoding parameter set, Christopoulos does not explicitly state CIF being a resolution in an

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encoding parameter set. However, OFFICIAL NOTICE is taken that the use of resolutions such as QCIF and CIF are widely used resolution standards for mobile display device, therefore CIF would have been obvious to try for the purpose of providing selection of widely used resolution standards when selecting encoding parameter sets.

(10) Response to Argument

A) Claims 1-2, 5, 7, 9-12, 14, 17 and 20-23 (Group 1)

In response to Appellant's argument (Page 22, 2nd ¶ and Page 24, 2nd ¶) stating Kost fails to disclose a third encoding parameter set for encoding only a third type of the plurality of types of data and forth encoding parameter set for encoding multiple types of the plurality of types of data, the examiner respectfully disagrees.

Reading the claims in the broadest sense, Christopoulos in view of Kost does disclose the limitation in the claim. Christopoulos discloses encoding two different types of data, video and image. Kost discloses the system may utilize a highly modified audio CODEC for audio encoding (i.e., third encoding parameter set) (¶ 0017 & 0059). Kost further discloses video 12a and audio 12b may be encoded (i.e., fourth encoding parameter set) (¶ 0084). Kost suggests the video 12a and audio 12b could be encoded together or at the very least using the same encoding parameter set by suggesting the audio 12b may be encoded differently than video 12a (¶ 0084). Therefore, Christopoulos in view of Kost disclose the four parameter sets required by claim 1.

In response to Appellant's argument (Page 25, 2nd ¶ and Page 27, 2nd ¶) stating Christopoulos fails to disclose selectively re-encoding the received stream, the examiner respectfully disagrees.

Reading the claims in the broadest sense, Christopoulos does disclose the limitation in the claim. Christopoulos discloses transcoder hints are used by transcoder to selectively reformat the multimedia in accordance with client capabilities, user preferences, and/or network characteristics (¶ 0036). Christopoulos further discloses in response to a multimedia request, transcoder acquires corresponding transcoder hints to facilitate transcoding the multimedia data (¶ 0037-0038). Christopoulos reads on "selectively re-encoding the received stream" by disclosing each requested stream is formatted in accordance with client capabilities and user preferences (¶ 0036-0037). Thus, if two users each request the same multimedia stream and a client of a first user has a first set of capabilities and a client of a second user has a second set of capabilities, then the transcoder selectively transcodes the same received stream to meet the capabilities of the client of the first user and the client of the second user. Furthermore, the use of the term "selectively" does not necessary imply that the stream is either encoded or it is not, it can be interpreted as selected streams are encoded in selected formats and thus Christopoulos reads on "selectively re-encoding the received stream".

B) Claim 8 (Group 2)

In response to Appellant's argument (Page 27, 4th ¶) stating nothing in any of the applied references teach or suggest the encoder system re-encodes the received stream by re-encoding the decoded stream using the selected one of the plurality of encoding parameters sets of each of the first and second users, the examiner respectfully disagrees.

Reading the claims in the broadest sense, Christopoulos does disclose the limitation in the claim. Christopoulos discloses transcoder hints are used by transcoder to selectively reformat the multimedia in accordance with client capabilities, user preferences, and/or network characteristics (¶ 0036). Christopoulos further discloses in response to a multimedia request, transcoder acquires corresponding transcoder hints to facilitate transcoding the multimedia data (¶ 0037-0038). Christopoulos reads on re-encodes the received stream by re-encoding the decoded stream using the selected one of the plurality of encoding parameters sets of each of the first and second users by disclosing multimedia data can be reformatted in accordance with client capabilities and user preferences (¶ 0036-0037). Furthermore, in cases where popular multimedia data is requested, the multimedia data is reformatted to conform to the client capabilities and user preferences of a first user as well as for a second user who has client capabilities and user preferences that differ from the first user.

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C) Claims 25-26, 29, 32, 35-36, 38, 42, and 44-47 (Group 3)

In response to Appellant's argument (Page 29, 3rd ¶), the Examiner notes that claim 1 has been shown above (see A) Claims 1-2, 5, 7, 9-12, 14, 17 and 20-23 (Group 1)), to be fully taught by the combination of Christopoulos in view of Kost, in view of Short and further in view of Mantha. Thus, claims 25, 26, 29, 32, 35, 36, 38, 42, and 44-47 are not allowable for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1.

D) Claims 49-50, 53, 56-60, 62, 66, and 68-71 (Group 4)

In response to Appellant's argument (Page 31, 1st ¶), the Examiner notes that claim 1 has been shown above (see A) Claims 1-2, 5, 7, 9-12, 14, 17 and 20-23 (Group 1)), to be fully taught by the combination of Christopoulos in view of Kost, in view of Short and further in view of Mantha. Thus, claims 49, 50, 53, 56-60, 62, 66, and 68-71 are not allowable for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1.

E) Claims 73-74, 77 and 79 (Group 5)

In response to Appellant's argument (Page 32, 2nd ¶), the Examiner notes that claim 1 has been shown above (see A) Claims 1-2, 5, 7, 9-12, 14, 17 and 20-23 (Group 1)), to be fully taught by the combination of Christopoulos in view of Kost, in view of Short and further in view of Mantha. Thus, claims 73, 74, 77, and 79 are not allowable for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1.

F) Claim 80 (Group 6)

In response to Appellant's argument (Page 33, 3rd ¶), the Examiner notes that claim 1 has been shown above (see A) Claims 1-2, 5, 7, 9-12, 14, 17 and 20-23 (Group 1)), to be fully taught by the combination of Christopoulos in view of Kost, in view of Short and further in view of Mantha. Thus, claim 80 is not allowable for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1.

G) Claims 81, 84-86, and 91 (Group 7)

In response to Appellant's argument (Page 35, 1st ¶), the Examiner notes that claim 1 has been shown above (see A) Claims 1-2, 5, 7, 9-12, 14, 17 and 20-23 (Group 1)), to be fully taught by the combination of Christopoulos in view of Kost, in view of Short and further in view of Mantha. Thus, claims 81, 84-86, and 91 are not allowable for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1.

H) Claims 93, 94, 96, 97, and 101 (Group 8)

In response to Appellant's argument (Page 36, 2nd ¶), the Examiner notes that claim 1 has been shown above (see A) Claims 1-2, 5, 7, 9-12, 14, 17 and 20-23 (Group 1)), to be fully taught by the combination of Christopoulos in view of Kost, in view of Short and further in view of Mantha. Thus, claims 93, 94, 96, 97, and 101 are not allowable for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1.

I) Claims 102, 105, 106, and 111 (Group 9)

In response to Appellant's argument (Page 37, 3rd ¶), the Examiner notes that claim 1 has been shown above (see A) Claims 1-2, 5, 7, 9-12, 14, 17 and 20-23 (Group 1)), to be fully taught by the combination of Christopoulos in view of Kost, in view of Short and further in view of Mantha. Thus, claims 102, 105, 106, and 111 are not allowable for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1.

J) Claims 112, 115-118, 122, and 124-130 (Group 10)

In response to Appellant's argument (Page 38, 3rd ¶), the Examiner notes that claim 1 has been shown above (see A) Claims 1-2, 5, 7, 9-12, 14, 17 and 20-23 (Group 1)), to be fully taught by the combination of Christopoulos in view of Kost, in view of Short and further in view of Mantha. Thus, claims 102, 105, 106, and 111 are not allowable for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1.

K) Claim 132 (Group 11)

In response to Appellant's argument (Page 39), stating Christopoulos fails to disclose or suggest only sending the re-encoded first type of the plurality of types of data to a requesting device without sending any of the remaining types of the plurality of types of data to a requesting device, the examiner respectfully disagrees.

Christopoulos discloses server 110 comprises multimedia storage 113, wherein received multimedia packets include video, still images, and transcoder hints that are stored in storage 113 (fig. 1; ¶ 0035). Christopoulos further discloses transcoder hints

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which are stored in storage 113 depend upon the type of multimedia data (§ 0036), such that received multimedia streams comprises video, images, and transcoder hints for the corresponding video and images. The transcoder re-encodes still images using the corresponding transcoder hints for the images and not the transcoder hints that are designated for video (§ 0036, 0039 & 0046). Therefore, Christopoulos discloses wherein the multimedia stream comprise a plurality of different types of multimedia data (i.e., images and video), wherein the encoder manager selects the first encoding parameter set (i.e., transcoder hints) for encoding only the first type of the plurality of types of data (i.e., video), wherein the encoder system re-encodes only the first type of the plurality of types of data using the selected first encoding parameter set (i.e., transcoder uses the transcoder hints that correspond to received video to facilitate re-encoding the video for transmission to the client), and wherein the apparatus only sends the re-encoded first type of the plurality of types of data to a requesting device without sending any of the remaining types of the plurality of types of data to the requesting device (i.e., gateway 120 only sends the re-encoded video and not still images or transcoder hints as some of the clients are only capable of receiving video only) (§ 0008; 0035-0036; 0039; & 0046).

L) Claim 133 (Group 12)

In response to Appellant's argument (Page 40, 2nd ¶), stating Christopoulos fails to disclose or suggest requiring that the apparatus only sends the re-encoded audio data to a requesting device without sending any of the video and text data to the requesting device, the examiner respectfully disagrees.

The reference Christopoulos has to be viewed and interpreted in whole.

Christopoulos discloses delivering data representing diverse multimedia content (e.g., audio, video, and image or "text" signals) from a native format to a format fitting user preferences, capabilities of the user terminal, and network characteristics (§ 0002).

Christopoulos further discloses that delivery of multimedia content may include only sending one type of content, such as audio only, to devices that are only capable of receiving audio content (§ 0008). Christopoulos discloses server 110 comprises multimedia storage 113, wherein received multimedia packets include video, still images or text, and audio are stored in storage 113 along with transcoder hints that correspond to the type of multimedia content (fig. 1; § 0035-0036). Christopoulos further discloses the type of transcoder hints which are stored depend upon the type of multimedia data (§ 0036), such that received multimedia streams comprises video, images, and audio along with transcoder hints for the corresponding video, audio, and images. The transcoder re-encodes audio using the corresponding transcoder hints for the audio and not the transcoder hints that are designated for video or images or "text" (§ 0036, 0039 & 0046). Therefore, Christopoulos discloses wherein the multimedia stream comprises audio, video and text data (i.e., storage 113 stores multimedia content, the multimedia content comprising audio, video, and images or "text") (§ 0002 & 0035-0036), wherein the encoder manager selects the first encoding parameter set for encoding only the audio data (i.e., stored multimedia content comprises corresponding transcoder hints, where the type of transcoder hints depend upon the type of multimedia content) (§ 0036), wherein the encoder system re-encodes only the audio data using the selected

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first encoding parameter set (i.e., if device can only receive audio data, only audio data is re-encoded; see ¶ 0008), and wherein the apparatus only sends the re-encoded audio data to a requesting device without sending any of the video and text data to the requesting device (i.e., if a device is not capable of display video or images or “text” but can receive audio, then only the re-encoded audio is transmitted to the requesting device) (¶ 0002, 0008, & 0036).

M) Second Ground of Rejection Under Appeal

In response to Appellant’s argument (Page 40, 3rd ¶), the Examiner notes that claim 1 has been shown above (see A) Claims 1-2, 5, 7, 9-12, 14, 17 and 20-23 (Group 1)), to be fully taught by the combination of Christopoulos in view of Kost, in view of Short and further in view of Mantha. Thus, claims 3, 4, 24, 27, 28, 48, 51, 52, 72, 75, 76, 88-90, 98-100, 108-110, and 119-121 are not allowable for being claims dependent upon rejected independent claims for the reasons discussed above.

N) Third Ground of Rejection Under Appeal

In response to Appellant’s argument (Page 41, 2nd – 3rd ¶), stating Wang does not disclose or suggest the encoding parameter sets required by claim 1, the examiner respectfully disagrees.

Reading the claims in the broadest sense, Christopoulos, Kost, Short, and Mantha in view of Wang does disclose the limitation in the claims. Christopoulos discloses each stored multimedia packet includes associated transcoder hints wherein

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the type of transcoder hints depend upon the type of multimedia data (§ 0036).

Christopoulos further discloses the use of a single transcoder to re-encode multiple types of multimedia content in response to requests received from a requesting client device, wherein the requested multimedia content is re-encoded in accordance with client capabilities and user preferences (§ 0035-0038). The combination of Christopoulos, Kost, Short, and Mantha are silent on regarding the transcoder comprising multiple encoders. Wang discloses the use of a transcoder that comprises multiple encoders (see fig. 6). Wang further discloses multimedia data can be re-encoded based on the processing capabilities and requirements of the client for receiving data from the server (§ 0028). Wang further discloses the use of multiple encoders within a transcoder is advantageous for processing multiple requests for the same movie from different clients wherein each client has different bandwidth requirements or may even have different processing capabilities (§ 0026-0029).

Therefore, Wang discloses each encoder is designated to re-encode multimedia to conform to bandwidth requirements and processing capabilities (i.e., encoder parameter set) of a requesting client and it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of Christopoulos, Kost, Short, and Mantha to include multiple encoders within the transcoder of Christopoulos for the benefit of re-encoding a requested video wherein the video is requested by multiple clients and each client has different user preferences and processing capabilities.

O) Forth Ground of Rejection Under Appeal

In response to Appellant's argument (Page 42, 3rd ¶), the Examiner notes that claim 1 has been shown above (see A) Claims 1-2, 5, 7, 9-12, 14, 17 and 20-23 (Group 1)), to be fully taught by the combination of Christopoulos in view of Kost, in view of Short and further in view of Mantha. Thus, claims 13, 15, 37, 39, 40, 61, 63, and 64 are not allowable for being claims dependent upon rejected independent claims for the reasons discussed above.

P) Fifth Ground of Rejection Under Appeal

In response to Appellant's argument (Page 43, 2nd ¶), stating Kost fails to teach or suggest a first encoding parameter set that is only for encoding audio data, the examiner respectfully disagrees.

Kost discloses the system may utilize a highly modified audio CODEC for audio encoding (i.e., third encoding parameter set) (¶ 0017 & 0059). Kost further discloses video 12a and audio 12b may be encoded (i.e., fourth encoding parameter set) (¶ 0084). Kost suggests the video 12a and audio 12b could be encoded together or at the very least using the same encoding parameter set by suggesting the audio 12b may be encoded differently than video 12a (¶ 0084). Therefore, the combination of Christopoulos, Kost, Short, Mantha, Patterson, and Tsukagoshi disclose each limitation of claim 18.

Q) Sixth Ground of Rejection Under Appeal

In response to Appellant's argument (Page 43, 3rd ¶), the Examiner notes that claim 1 has been shown above (see A) Claims 1-2, 5, 7, 9-12, 14, 17 and 20-23 (Group 1)), to be fully taught by the combination of Christopoulos in view of Kost, in view of Short and further in view of Mantha. Thus, claims 92 and 123 are not allowable for being claims dependent upon rejected independent claims for the reasons discussed above.

R) Reference to Support Official Notice Statements

For claim 92 (see page 61) and Claim 123 (see page 62) of the Office Action, the examiner gave Official Notice that it is well known in the art the use of encoding multimedia streams at a resolution of a common intermediate format (CIF) or larger. To support this assertion, the examiner cites the reference Boyce (USPN 6,343,098) to disclose encoding multimedia stream at a resolution of a common intermediate format (CIF) or larger (see fig. 3; Col. 4, lines 50-65).

The Examiner's Answer has addressed Appellant's arguments for patentability. Any further arguments regarding other elements or limitations not specifically argued that the appellant could have made are not being addressed for consideration by the panel. The Examiner maintains the rejections of claims 1-15,17,18,20-30,32,34-40,42-54,56,58-64,66-81,84-86,88- 94,96,98-102,105,106,108-112 and 115-133 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over various cited combinations of prior art are proper. Thus, Examiner

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respectfully requests the Board affirm the rejections of claims 1-15,17,18,20-30,32,34-40,42-54,56,58-64,66-81,84-86,88- 94,96,98-102,105,106,108-112 and 115-133 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), set forth in the final rejection mailed 14 March 2011.

(11) Related Proceeding(s) Appendix

No decision rendered by a court or the Board is identified by the examiner in the Related Appeals and Interferences section of this examiner's answer.

For the above reasons, it is believed that the rejections should be sustained.

Respectfully submitted,

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